

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 10 and 11 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider her rejections in view of the amendments and remarks as set forth below.

Appeal

Applicants are submitting this Amendment along with a Notice of Appeal. The present Amendment is designed to simplify the issues on appeal. Applicants will submit an appropriate Appeal Brief in due course.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Tao et al. (WO 99/60973) in view of Morman et al. (U.S. Patent 5,883,028). Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over these two references and further in view of McCormack et al. (WO 00/38915). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Examiner is referred to the remarks of the Amendment After Final rejection of October 29, 2002 for discussion of how the claims overcome these rejections. Applicants will submit an Appeal Brief in due course further elucidating these arguments.

Conclusion

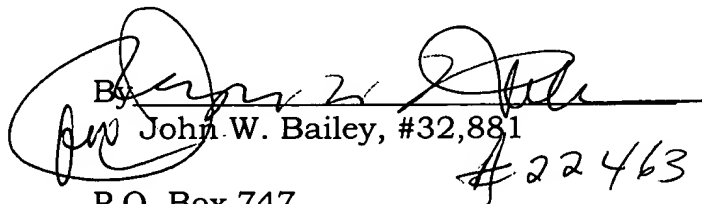
In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the claims clearly distinguish over the patents relied on by the Examiner either alone or in combination. In view of this, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested.

In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Robert F. Gnuse at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment(s)